

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 AF-04 EUR-10 SAM-01

PM-03 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 IOE-00 DRC-01 /061 W
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P R 101739Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4654

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2388

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO SG UN

SUBJ: FRENCH REPORT ON SPINOLA-SENGHOR CONVERSATION

1. FRENCH REP DE GUIRINGAUD TOLD ME EVENING JULY 9 HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PARIS DETAILED REPORT ON SENGHOR-SPINOLA CONVERSATION AT LISBON AIRPORT. SENGHOR REPORTEDLY TOLD FRENCH HE HAD BEEN GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH SPINOLA AND THE TWO LEADERS HAD HAD FULL MEETING OF MINDS ON NEXT STEPS TOWARD PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION GUINEA-BISSAU. (THIS IS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH REPORTED SENGHOR POSITION IN LISBON 2875.)

2. ACCORDING FRENCH REPORT SENGHOR AND SPINOLA AGREED ON FOLLOWING SENCARIO. SPINOLA PLANS TO GO TO BISSAU TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH PAIGC LEADERSHIP AND OTHER AFRICAN ELEMENTS. AFTER TALKING WITH AFRICANS HE WILL ANNOUNCE THAT HE HAS CONSULTED WITH PAIGC AND OTHER GROUPS AND FINDS THEM
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TO HAVE COMMON PURPOSE RE GUTURE OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

SPINOLA WILL THEN PROCEED TO SET UP PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH PORTUGAL WILL RECOGNIZE. SENGHOR REPORTEDLY UNDERTOOK WITH SPINOLA TO TALK WITH PAIGC LEADERSHIP AND URGE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF ABOVE SCENARIO.

3. CAPE VERDE ISLANDS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE PLAN, WHICH IS RESTRICTED TO ENTITY OF GUINEA-BISSAU. SENGHOR IS NATURALLY IN FAVOR OF HANDLING CAPE VERDE SEPARATELY SINCE HE HAS SOME VESTED INTEREST IN THAT SITUATION IN VIEW OF FACT CAPE VERDIAN PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED TO DERIVE LARGELY FROM SENEGALESE STOCK.

4. IN ANSWER TO MY INQUIRY AS TO WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT TIMING, DE GUIRINGAUD SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING SPINOLA HOPED TO CARRY OUT ABOVE PLAN WITHIN NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS. HE WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT, IF THINGS WENT FORWARD ALONG LINES CONTEMPLATED BY SENGHOR AND SPINOLA, THEN PRESUMABLY APPLICATION BY GUINEA-BISSAU FOR UN MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE APPROPRIATELY POSTPONED.

5. COMMENT: DE GUIRINGAUD DID NOT MENTION FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES. IT IS ALSO NOT CLEAR HOW INTERNAL CABINET PROBLEMS IN LISBON MAY AFFECT SPINOLA PLANNING WITH RESPECT TO GUINEA-BISSAU. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN02388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740183-0951
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740759/aaaabywl.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH REPORT ON SPINOLA-SENGHOR CONVERSATION
TAGS: PFOR, PO, SG, FR, PU, UN, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD SEDAR), (SPINOLA, ANTONIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005